

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE JULY 25, 1988

FULL NAME JAMES EDWARD VILA SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED]  
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)  
ADDRESS [REDACTED]  
CITY ANNANDALE, STATE NEW JERSEY ZIP CODE 08801-0277  
DATE OF BIRTH MAY 27, 1948 (This is important and should be exact)  
APPROXIMATE AGE \_\_\_\_\_ (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)  
RELIGION Protestant (Lutheran) NATIONALITY \_\_\_\_\_  
OCCUPATION Professional Scouter  
EDUCATION BS - BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - 4 YRS. UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  
WEIGHT approx. 160 HEIGHT approx. 5'3" RACE Caucasian  
COLOR OF HAIR light brown COLOR OF EYES blue  
OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_  
MARRIED OR SINGLE MARRIED CHILDREN (3) [REDACTED]  
NAME OF SPOUSE [REDACTED] (Number, ages, and names, if possible)

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS: Senior District Scout Executive - GNYC

<u>UNIT #</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>DATE REGISTERED</u>	<u>DATE RESIGNED</u>
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SPECIAL RECOGNITION \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPENDED OR DENIED REGISTRATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

Arrested and indicted for sexual child abuse. (No conviction as of 7/25/88.)

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION AND LIST ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE OR SPECULATION):

CONFIDENTIAL

AUG 01 1988

F. STARON

RS-509

4/14/83-nah

NOTED

OCT 10 '88

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council \_\_\_\_\_

CONF027592

FREEMAN, NOOTER & GINSBERG  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

COPY

LOUIS M. FREEMAN  
THOMAS H. NOOTER\*  
LEE A. GINSBERG

\* N.Y. AND CALIF. BARS

THE WOOLWORTH BUILDING  
233 BROADWAY, SUITE 3201  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10279

January 8, 1990

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Boy Scouts of America  
Greater New York Council  
345 Hudson Street  
New York, NY 10014  
Attn: DAVID ANDERSON

Re: JAMES E. VILA

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I represent James E. Vila, an employee of the Boy Scouts Of America, who was suspended on November 16, 1987 due to certain criminal allegations made against him. We wish to advise you that on October 18, 1989 all criminal charges against Mr. Vila were dismissed by Judge Jay Gold in the New York State Supreme Court, New York County.

Mr. Vila is currently ready, willing and able to return to the Boy Scouts as a full time employee. In addition, due to the suspension and the concurrent loss of rights to salaries and benefits to which Mr. Vila was entitled we make a demand upon the Boy Scouts for the lost earnings and benefits, as outlined in the attached list. These losses also include the cost of litigation in both the civil and criminal matters in which Mr. Vila was named as a party.

Please contact the undersigned upon receipt of this letter in order to facilitate an equitable resolution of these claims.

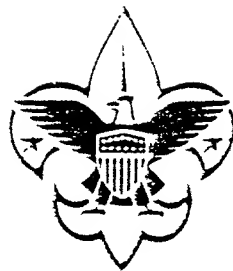
Very truly yours,

Lee Ginsberg

Encls.

cc: Debra C. Duhs  
Boy Scouts of America

CONF027593



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
Greater New York Councils

January 12, 1990

Pick

Re Jim Pick's Resignation

Lyle asked that I provide you copies of:

① Jim's letter of resignation  
and

② Lyle's letter of accepting resignation on behalf  
of the B.S.A.



November 18, 1987

Mr. James E. Vila  
[REDACTED]

Annandale, NJ 08801-0277

Dear Jim:

We have received your letter of resignation dated November 16, 1987 and accept it.

Your request for a waiver of the 30 day notice by the use of accrued vacation is accepted. According to our records, you have a total of 19 days remaining of accrued vacation time as a result of the change of vacation plan. Enclosed is a check for the compensation for that remaining time.

You will receive a communication directly from the Compensation and Benefits Division regarding insurance coverages which may be continued and any options you may have under the retirement plan. The best wishes of the staff and volunteers of the Greater New York Councils go with you in your new endeavor.

Sincerely,

Lyle K. Antonides  
Director of Field Service

lb

cc: Clover Holden  
Personnel Division

Attachment

REGISTERED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Greater New York Councils  
345 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014-4588 • (212) 242-1100

CONF027595

March 12, 1990

Mr. Lee Ginsberg  
Freeman Nooter & Ginsberg  
The Woolworth Building  
[REDACTED]  
New York, NY 10279

Dear Mr. Ginsberg:

RE: JAMES E. VILA

Thank you for your letter of January 8, 1990 regarding the above referenced individual. Please be advised that Mr. Vila resigned his position with the Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America on November 16, 1987. A copy of his resignation letter is enclosed.

Please confirm this with your client.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Ruffino  
Scout Executive

RMR/mvh

cc: David K. Park

CONF027596

January 3, 1990

Mr. Antonides  
Director Field Service  
Greater New York Council  
[REDACTED]  
New York, NY 10014-4588

RE: James Villa

Dear Mr. Antonides:

We are advised that this individual is seeking reinstatement.

Please take no action in this regard without consulting the undersigned.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

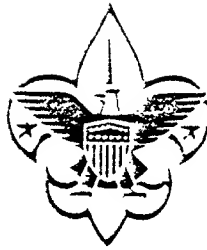
David K. Park  
National Legal Counsel

hr

cc: Dick Ruffino, SE

bcc: Jerry Jennings

CONF027597



## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

National Office  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079, Irving, Texas 75015-2079  
214-580-2000

December 29, 1989

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR RE-INSTATEMENT BY JAMES VILA,  
FORMER SENIOR DISTRICT EXECUTIVE, GREATER NEW YORK COUNCIL

To: David K. Park, Attorney  
Lawrence F. Potts ✓

From: Debra C. Duhs

In November 1987, James Vila, district executive serving East Harlem, was arrested and charged with child sexual molestation. As a result, he was removed from his employment with the Greater New York Council.

As a result of Vila's alleged behavior, Scout youth Cordera has filed suit against the National Council, BSA and Greater New York Council, BSA. That litigation is still in the pre-trial discovery stage.

Recent correspondence from defense counsel (attached; start with 2nd paragraph, page 2) advises me that the criminal indictment against Vila is being dismissed for lack of prosecution. If the criminal matter is dismissed, Vila plans to seek re-instatement and back pay from the Greater New York Council.

Frank Lane, our attorney in Miami, advises that Vila should not be reinstated under any circumstances.

jm

attachment

CONF027598

WICKER, SMITH, BLOMQUIST, TUTAN, O'HARA  
McCoy, GRAHAM & LANE, P.A.

December 26, 1989

Debra C. Duhs, Assistant Director  
Insurance and Risk Management  
Boy Scouts of America  
National Office  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, TX 75038-3096

RE: Cordero v. Boy Scouts of America  
Our File No.: 27361-2

Dear Debra:

I have reviewed Mike Close's letter of December 17, 1989.

Obviously, Vila can not be reinstated under any set of circumstances. If there is any trouble handling this, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

FRANK A. LANE

FAL/amc

*Decol*  
*12/29/89*  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
DEC 29 1989

CONF027599



October 12, 1988

Mr. Richard M. Ruffino  
Scout Executive  
Greater New York Council, No. 640

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: James Edward Vila

Dear Dick:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Confidential File.

Sincerely,

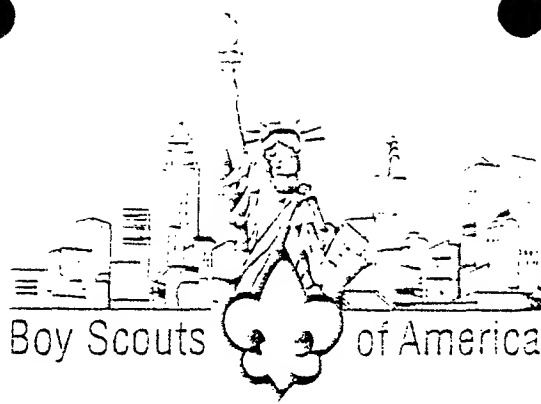
Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

ag

cc: Northeast Region

READY TO FILE  
OCT 17 1988  
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF027600



August 1, 1988

Mr. Paul Ernst  
Director  
Registrations, Subscription &  
Statistical Service  
National Office, BSA  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015

Dear Paul:

Attached is the confidential record sheet for Mr. James Edward Vila per your request.

We will keep you posted on any further legal action that is related. Thanks for all your help.

Sincerely,

Lyle K. Antonides  
Director of Field Service

lb

Attachment



National Office  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, Texas 75038-3096



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

National Office  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, Texas 75015-2079

December 1, 1987

For your files

sd

attachments

JAMES VILA

Debra C. Ouhs  
214-580-2145  
S402

David K. Park  
214-580-2005  
S400

1/2/90

See you later

Good bye

to be continued

July 15, 1988

Lyle Antonides  
Director of Field Services  
Greater New York Council, No. 640

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: James Vila

Dear Lyle:

We appreciate your letter of July 11, with an update on James Vila. This is most helpful to us as we try to complete the file. We certainly will want to know whenever the legal action is all completed.

I am enclosing another Confidential Record Sheet, which I would like to have completed, so we may identify Mr. Vila and have all the information which is needed. We feel it is better to do this now than to wait later when some information may not still be available. If you will complete this with all the information which is requested, this will aid us in our identification process.

Let us know if we may be of help to you in any other way.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

ag

enclosure

READY TO FILE

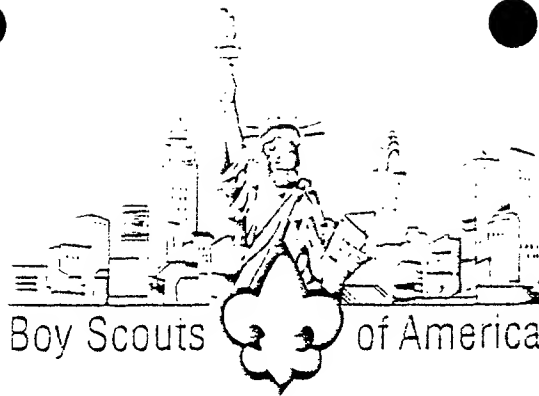
JUL 18 1988

cc: Northeast Region.  
Richard M. Ruffino, Scout Executive, Co. 640

ERIN O'RILEY

CONF027603

July 11, 1988



Mr. Paul Ernst  
Director  
Registrations, Subscription  
& Statistical Service  
National Office, BSA  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015

Dear Paul:

In an effort to keep you current in the matter concerning Mr. James Vila formerly of the Greater New York staff, let me provide you with an update.

This case is far from complete and will probably go on for some time now. Mr. Vila who served as a member of the professional staff of the Greater New York Councils until his suspension and subsequent resignation in November of 1987. Mr. Vila has been indicted by the Manhattan Grand Jury for sexual abuse in the first degree involving an incident which reportedly took place between September 1, 1985 and December 24, 1985 to a boy. This incidentally is not the charge which was used when he was arrested in November of 1987. The charge at that time dealt with an incident which reportedly took place in the fall of 1987. Beyond that, we do not have further information regarding the incident.

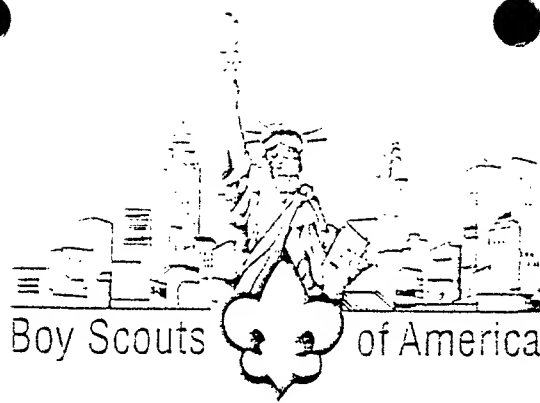
Coincidentally with this the parents of the boy involved have filed a law suit against Mr. Vila and the Boy Scouts of America. This is obviously a separate action but connected. I will attempt to keep you updated as additional information is available.

Sincerely,

*Lyle Antonides*  
Lyle K. Antonides  
Director of Field Service

lb

cc: Richard M. Ruffino



March 16, 1988

Mr. Paul Ernst  
Director  
Registrations, Subscription &  
Statistical Service  
National Office  
Boy Scouts of America  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Dear Paul:

As an additional follow up to previous letters, I need to give you a current status report on James Vila concerning the legal action in his case.

The county prosecutor's office has again extended the arraignment date for Mr. Vila's arraignment on charges. This will be the last extension allowed because the new date is now May 20, 1988.

As far as I understand it, the law requires that charges must either be made by 180 days or the charges are dropped. Since he was arrested on November 16, May 20 must obviously be the last possible day that they could have in order to have an arraignment. Consequently, subsequent to May 20, 1988, we will have a better picture of where we are concerning this case. Following that date I will again communicate with you so that you have some idea of where we are headed. Thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,

Lyle K. Antonides  
Director of Field Service

1b

cc: Richard Ruffino  
William Scollay  
Frank Savino  
Rudolph Flythe

*See file  
3x. ok*



February 17, 1988

Mr. Paul Ernst  
Director  
Registrations, Subscription &  
Statistical Service  
National Office, BSA  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Paul:

As a follow up to earlier correspondence, I need to give you a current status report on the confidential matter involving James Vila and his registration status with our Council.

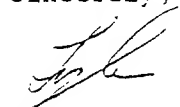
As you may recall, Mr. Vila was a member of the Greater New York Councils' professional staff and was relieved of his duties after an allegation was made of sexual child abuse. Subsequently he resigned and we accepted his resignation from the profession.

Mr. Vila's arraignment has not yet been held as the prosecutor's office has continued to ask for postponements. As a result of these postponements, we know nothing further now than we knew on the 16th of November when this situation began. It is my understanding that according to the law, the prosecutor's office has six months in which to proceed with an arraignment or to drop the case. At this point, we are still in a period of waiting.

During all this time, Mr. Vila has maintained his innocence and those who know him cannot believe that the allegations are true. Those of us on the staff who knew him well hope that this is true but we will not know until later when the facts finally are brought out.

There is nothing further to report at this time. I will keep you posted as the situation changes.

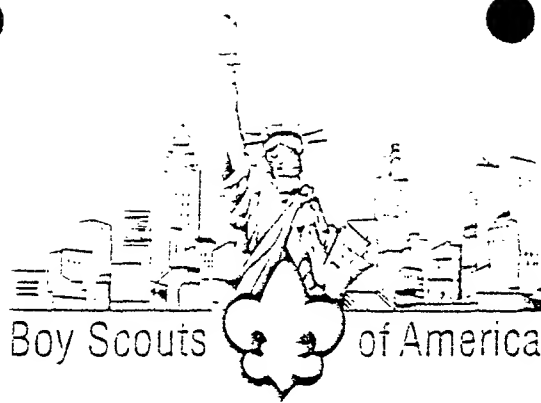
Sincerely,

  
Kyle K. Antonides  
Director of Field Service

cc: Richard Ruffino

Greater New York Councils  
345 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014-4588 • (212) 242-1100

CONF027606



January 26, 1988

Personal and Confidential

Mr. Paul Ernst  
Director  
Registrations, Subscription & Statistical  
Service  
National Office, BSA  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079


Dear Paul:

With regard to the current status concerning James Vila, please know that at this point we have no further knowledge than the day of our suspension of him and his arrest which took place on November 16.

As of today, he has not been arraigned. Because of the law, we have been unable to determine the exact charges that he will be charged with. Some of the gossip which is going on seems to indicate that there is nothing except the accusation of one youth member and it is not supported by any other youth member or adult. If this turns out to be the case, we may find a situation of charges being dropped.

As of this point, everything is very much up in the air. I am not personally sure that he is guilty. Unfortunately, the law prohibits us from finding out any additional information unless we hired a separate investigator which we are not going to do at this point in time. Hopefully the information will come out shortly and the situation will be clarified one way or the other. I will keep you informed of developments as soon as we have any additional information which can be helpful to us. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

  
Lyle K. Antonides  
Director of Field Service

cc: Bill Scollay  
Frank Savino  
Richard Ruffino  
Rudolph Flythe

*Still need  
CR sheet*

Greater New York Councils  
345 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014-4588 • (212) 242-1100

CONF027607



January 8, 1988

Mr. Lyle Antonides  
Director of Field Service  
Greater New York Council, No. 640

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: James Vila

Dear Lyle:

I know that an arrest took place concerning the above named individual. I wonder if anything further has developed that would give us more information for our confidential file.

I am enclosing a Confidential Record Sheet for you to complete so we can identify Mr. Vila should he attempt registration at a later time. We would also like any newspaper articles or statements that are available.

The final outcome of the legal action will be most important to us and should be included in the file. Let me know if we can be of any help.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

mdw

Enclosure

cc: Northeast Region

Richard M. Ruffino, Scout Executive, Council No. 640

READY TO FILE  
JAN 11 1988  
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF027608

*From the desk of...*

DONALD A. WATT  
SCOUT EXECUTIVE




*Dear Donna,*

*Enclosed is a  
newspaper article which  
you might want to see.  
Clinton Twp. is west of  
our Council, and Mr. Vella  
works in C.N.Y.C. which  
is lost.*

RISK MANAGEMENT

NOV 30 1987

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
Watchung Area Council, Inc.



CONF027609

## SPORTS



### Dawson tops in NL Cubs star 1st MVP from cellar-dweller

Page E-1

## HUNTERDON-SOMERSET

### Bridgewater

Drug-alcohol education  
seen as priority. Page B-1.

### Clinton Township

Scout leader's arrest  
stuns community. Page B-1.

Mostly sunny today;  
cool tonight;  
partly sunny,  
mid-40s tomorrow

Weather details  
Page A-2

, November 19, 1987

722-8800

25 Cents

# Scout leader's arrest shocks friends, workers

By MARY ROMANO  
Courier-News Staff Writer.

**CLINTON TOWNSHIP** — In the 17 years he has served as an executive of the Boy Scouts of America in New York City, James Vila had an impeccable record and was a popular leader, a Boy Scout official said yesterday.

Family, friends and co-workers said yesterday that they were stunned by charges that the 39-year-old Vila had sexually abused a Boy Scout over a two-year period.

On Monday, New York City police charged Vila, of 31 Center St. in the Annandale section, with first-degree sexual abuse of an 11-year-old Scout. The boy, who was not identified, was a member of Troop 655, which held meetings at Public School 155 at 319 E. 117th St. in East Harlem.

When contacted at his home here yesterday, Vila was polite but declined to comment on the charges. "Any questions will have to be answered by my lawyer," he said.

Vila "adamantly denies the charges and he looks forward to the opportunity to have a trial and be acquitted," his lawyer, Lee Ginsberg, said from his office in New York.

The charges "came as a complete shock to him and his family," Ginsberg said. "Until Monday, they had no inkling or idea this was coming."

"He's a great guy. We feel there's nothing to suggest that this could have happened," said Robert Williams, a spokesman for the Greater New York Councils of the Boy Scouts of America, which oversees the boroughs in New York City and surrounding areas.

Vila was suspended immediately from his job as district executive after Scouting officials learned of the charges, Williams said. It is the policy of the Scouts to suspend any official or volunteer facing charges until any investigation is complete, he said.

Scouting officials, however, say they will stand behind Vila.

"His record is perfect and his work has been exemplary," Williams said.

"We believe a person is innocent until proven guilty. We must act on the charges. We are cooperating with the police. When he is cleared of the charges, he'll be reinstated. He's a senior member of this organization."

Vila, one of about 50 to 75 district executives, was in charge of most of the East Harlem area, Williams said. Troop 655 was only one of an undetermined number of troops in his district.

As a district executive, Vila did not deal directly with the Scouts, but with raising money for the organization, handling volunteers and activities.

See SCOUT on Page B-3

## SCOUT: Leader's arrest stuns workers, friends

□ Continued from Page 3-1

and dealing with parents of the youths. The organization splits New York City and the other four boroughs into districts so it is easier to organize troops and recruit youngsters and adult volunteers. Williams said.

But there were many occasions when Vila would come in contact with the children, Williams said, such as meetings, events, camping trips and cookouts. The organization, with its headquarters in New York City, has 83,000 youngsters and 22,000 adults in the Boy Scouts program in the five boroughs alone.

Ginsberg declined to say whether Vila knew the boy or to speculate as to why he would bring charges against Vila. He said he hadn't had enough time to review the evidence.

Vila previously held posts in Allentown, Pa., which included troops in Easton, Pa., and Phillipsburg, Williams said, but most of his association is with the New York office.

Hunterdon County Prosecutor Roger Manon said Hunterdon authorities were not involved in the investigation and New York City police have not contacted him. Court records show

Vila has no previous criminal convictions in Hunterdon County.

John Mayer, senior district Scout executive for the Boy Scout council that includes Hunterdon, Warren and Mercer counties, said he has never known Vila to participate in the Boy Scouts in this area.

Williams said the organization has not had many of its officials or volunteers charged with sexually abusing the children.

"It is unusual, but this isn't the first case we've dealt with," he said. "We deal with a large amount of people in a huge metropolitan area. Sometimes parents get carried away. They get so caught up with what they're doing that sometimes things turn political. They can start to point fingers and say, this scoutmaster or this official abused a child. We've had cases where that's how heated it gets. They forget they're here to help the youngsters."

Williams said Boy Scout officials were told the youth made the assault allegations to his parents and teachers at Public School 155. In New York, some of the troops are connected to a school, which organizes and runs the troop. Troop 855 was connected to the school, Williams said.

On Monday morning, police, school and Boy Scout officials met with the boy's parents to discuss the allegations, Williams said.

Vila responded to a police request that he come in for questioning. He appeared at the 20th Precinct station house in New York, where he was later arrested. Police Officer Joseph Gallagher said. So far, only one complaint has been lodged against Vila, Gallagher said.

The assistant principal at Public School 155 declined to give her name or comment on the charges.

"We did what we had to do," she said.

Vila's family posted \$5,000 bail Tuesday after his arraignment in Manhattan Criminal Court. He is married, has three children and has lived in Clinton Township for six years.

Williams said he has taken a number of calls from adult volunteers and parents Vila has dealt with, and all called to support him.

"We are perfectly behind him," said Vila's friend, John Arnone, pastor of Annandale Reformed Church, where Vila is a member. "The charges are outrageous. We'll go through this with him."

# NEWS ADVISORY

*CONFIDENTIAL*

Date: November 17, 1987

Signed:

*Barclay M. Bollen*  
Barclay Bollen as

Time: 2:30 pm

Ext: 2272

THE SOURCE: Robert Williams, PR Director, Greater NY Council, 212-242-1100

## THE FACTS:

James Vila, district executive serving East Harlem, has been arrested and charged with sexual molestation of a juvenile. He has been suspended from his BSA position as a result.

Allegations were made against Vila by an 11-year-old boy, a member of Troop 655, P.S. 155, Manhattan, who complained to a teacher that he had been molested by Vila. Vila is married and father of several children.

The council has met with the school administrators, the unit parents, and with the police. There has been substantial media coverage. The region was notified November 13 by the council.

Inquiries are to be referred to Mr. Williams at [REDACTED]

926 - D8640 ID # 000323

*Added to CF file*

*deleted from registration files*

*11-18-87*

*cm*

## WATS CALL FORM

CALL BACK REQUESTED X

COUNCIL #

PHONE NO: [REDACTED]

CALLER: Frank SavinoPOSITION: Area Director

## TYPE OF PROBLEM

REGISTRATION \_\_\_\_\_

VETERANS \_\_\_\_\_

EXPLORING \_\_\_\_\_

SCOUTING \_\_\_\_\_

BOYS' LIFE \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT #

DIST. #

EXP. DATE

TRANSMITTAL #

FILM #

NYC - PROFESSIONALJAMES VILLA - DSEPER SCHOOL PRIN & PARENTSSEXUAL ABUSE CASE - SEVERAL YOUTH  
BOYS - IN SCHOOL SCOUTINGCHARGES FILED WITH POLICE -PERSONNEL (BILL SCOLLAY) NOTIFIEDBy KNSNAME DJDATE 11-16-87

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

R/S-433

3/13/86-clf-567r

CONF027614

November 17, 1987

2:30 pm - Initial Contact: Robert Williams, [REDACTED]  
PR Director, Greater NY Council

SUBJECT: SEXUAL MOLESTATION

From: Barc Boilas - S313

To: David Park - S400

THE FACTS:

James Vila, district executive serving East Harlem, has been arrested and charged with sexual molestation of a juvenile. He has been suspended from his BSA position as a result.

Allegations were made against Vila by an 11-year-old boy, a member of Troop 655, P.S. 155, Manhattan, who complained to a teacher that he had been molested by Vila over a two-year period during BSA activities. Vila is married and father of several children.

The council has met with the school administrators, the unit parents, and with the police. There has been substantial media coverage. The region was notified November 13 by the council.

Inquires are to be referred to Mr. Williams at [REDACTED]

cc: R. Moranville

---

David Park

cc: J. Anglim  
T. Accas  
P. Ernst

CONF027615